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COMIC SHOP NEWS



WORLDS' FINEST

Levitz Leads Super-Team to Worlds' Series

They were well-known heroes in their own world. But something went awry, and they found themselves transported to an Earth that was not their own, no matter how similar it appeared. There, they were Supergirl and Robin. Here, they're Power Girl and Huntress, a pair of relocated heroes looking for a way to return to their own world.

Paul Levitz chronicles their saga in *Worlds' Finest* (and yes, the apostrophe has been moved to underscore the fact that this series involves *two* worlds, not one), one of May's eight New 52 series debuts. *Worlds' Finest* is actually *two* stories: one chronicling their migration to the New 52 Earth five years ago, the other presenting their superheroic team-up in the present day.

Levitz told CSN what readers can look forward to in the first issue of the new series. "The events that send Helena and Kara to the New 52 Earth are shown in *James Robinson's Earth 2 #1*, and we pick up right on that," Levitz said. "They arrive here as Robin and Supergirl, five years ago. We're also picking up their story in the present day; George Pérez is drawing the 'now' stuff, and Kevin Maguire is drawing the 'then' stuff. So Kevin gets to draw them arriving as Robin and Supergirl."

Readers have already had a chance to meet both characters: Helena Wayne starred in the *Huntress* miniseries (also written by Levitz) that recently wrapped, while Kara, in her New 52 identity of Karen Starr, played an important role in *Mr. Terrific*, where readers learned she was the wealthy head of Starr Enterprises. Will Levitz reveal how Kara went from Earth 2 expatriate to an *über*-billionaire? Did she use her powers to achieve her wealth? "Parts of that story will unveil in Kevin's pages through the first few issues," Levitz said. "She had a little help from Helena, a little inspiration from an unlikely source or two... and a *unique* workstyle..."

While the Huntress has already adopted a costumed guise on the New 52 Earth, "as of *Worlds' Finest #1*, Kara hasn't become Power girl yet. *Worlds' Finest #1* will be the first moment that Kara puts on a superhero costume on this Earth. Of course, Helena has been running around as the Huntress for awhile; at some point in the first year, we'll find out how she chose to become the Huntress specifically, and how that all ties into the Helena Bertinelli identity."

Are Kara's powers the same on the New 52 Earth as they were on Earth 2? "That's a good question," Levitz said. "I think she's asking the same thing!" As to how her powers might compare to this world's Superman and Supergirl, Levitz explained that "she'll have to meet them to tell—gaming world aside, power stats aren't usually that clear."

Do Kara and Helena feel any kindred links to Superman and Batman of this world? "I imagine it's both appealing and utterly weird to know of doppelgangers of your loved ones when—oh, not supposed to talk about that part yet, I think," Levitz joked, adding that it's "certainly story turf to be explored at some point."

What brings them together as a team in *Worlds' Finest*? "They're close friends from their life on Earth-2, and as the only people who understand their history, so they're natural allies," Levitz said. "Their agendas are very different, though, so they don't work together most of the time."

Does anyone on the New 52 Earth know the truth about them? "Not that they know of..." Levitz replied enigmatically, adding that they won't make any of this world's heroes aware of their displaced status right away—nor are they in any rush to inform the New 52 heroes of the existence of Earth 2.

With the obviously interrelated nature of *Worlds' Finest* and *Earth 2*, are Levitz and Robinson building to some sort of crossover storyline? "There are lots of ideas and potential floating around," Levitz said. "Time will tell what develops."

Levitz said that one his goals in *Worlds' Finest* is "to capture an authentic tone in the friendship

of the two women. I think it's a very special relationship. They're very different in their powers; they're very different in their approach; they're very different in their reaction to what happened on Earth 2. But they're friends in a much more personal way that Bruce and Clark have ever been—maybe because they're younger, maybe because they're women, maybe because they're just who they are."

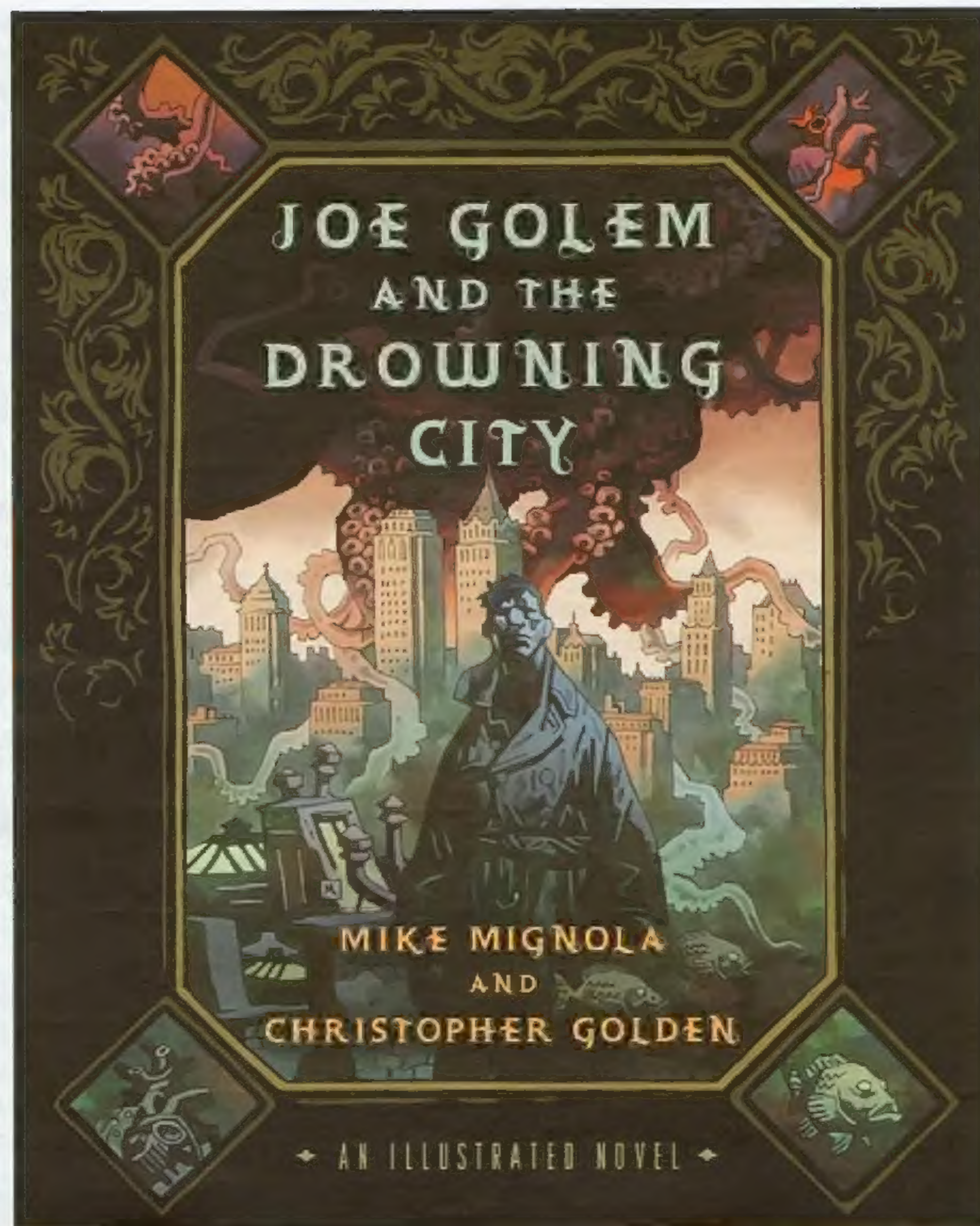
Readers can see the super-team in action on May 2nd, when *Worlds' Finest #1* by Paul Levitz, George Pérez, & Kevin Maguire is slated for release.

Mignola & Golden Makes Waves in Drowning City

In their previous prose collaboration, *Baltimore*, Mike Mignola & Christopher Golden introduced readers to a one man's war against vampires and other horrors. In their latest book, *Joe Golem and the Drowning City*, they take readers to the a very different world, but one that is every bit as terrifying.

Christopher Golden offered a synopsis of the illustrated novel. "In an alternate history 1970s New York, lower Manhattan is under thirty feet of water, turning it into a grim, Dickensian Venice. Joe Golem—an amnesiac who dreams of hunting witches centuries ago, killing them with stone hands—is playing Watson to a Victorian detective kept alive with magic and steampunk mechanics. Their most frequent nemesis is the mad Dr. Cocteau. Meanwhile, famed stage magician and medium Felix Orlov is kidnapped by strange men in rubber suits and gas masks, and the same mysterious figures are pursuing his assistant and ward, an orphaned teenage girl named Molly McHugh."

Both New York and Orlov the Conjuror seem to be past their prime. Was this parallel intentional? "You make us seem far more clever than we actually are!" Golden joked.



"Honestly, though, you're not completely off. Orlov hit his prime just as lower Manhattan became the Drowning City, and the two of them have grown old and tired together."

"I find I really *like* older characters," co-writer and illustrator Mike Mignola added, "mainly because, much to my surprise, I myself have gotten sort of old. But, really, I do love characters with a lot of their life behind them—especially if that past life is shrouded in mystery. Those kind of characters are especially appropriate in this book—the city itself isn't just *drowning*, it's *dying*. It's rotting away. It's appropriate that we see that in some of the characters as well."

Why Joe Golem, rather than just "the Golem"? "Joe Golem is simply the name that popped into my head one day," Mignola said. "That's who the character was and that's what I always called the story. I did wonder if it was too goofy to use as the title of the book, but Chris—always the voice of reason—said it was okay, so there you go!"

"He's a guy. He's Watson. He's a square-jawed pulp hero," Golden added. "But that's not all he is or all he's ever been. His history is long. In this novel, he's far more 'Joe' than 'Golem.'"

And what about Molly? How did this teenage orphan, close to both Orlov and Joe Golem, become the book's protagonist? "There's a lot more of Molly's story to be told, but her significance here is really twofold," Golden explained. "First, she gives us a ground level—or sea-level, if you prefer—view of the Drowning City and life there, and she is the ordinary, vulnerable human link that connects some very extraordinary individuals—Orlov, Simon Church, Joe Golem, and Dr. Cocteau. Second, she plays a vital role in the story of Joe Golem in the future."

Joe Golem & the Drowning City chronicles these fantastic events in a lean, descriptive, emotionally restrained style. "Though we do spend time in the heads of the characters, when it came to



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action and drama, I wanted to communicate visually—as much as it's possible to do so with words," Golden said. "When the characters are feeling something in particular, of course we want you to feel it, too. But when they're in motion, action unfolding, I wanted the reader to see it."

While the book isn't overtly and directly Lovecraftian and nature, Golden acknowledges its Lovecraftian attitude. "It's a Lovecraftian homage I guess," Golden said. "I use that idea of a vast unknowable universe so much that I sometimes don't even think of it as Lovecraftian. I just think that's the stuff that's out there--And if you go tampering with cosmic powers (the kind man was never intended to use) then you're going to attack the attention of creatures like that. I wouldn't consider it a contribution to the mythos--Though I suppose you could drop some Lovecraft monster names in there and it would work as that!"

Mignola supplies a large number of small, often minimal panels to accompany the text rather than the more typical full-page illustrations. What inspired this illustrative approach? "I have a love/hate relationship with book illustration," Mignola said. "I do not like spelling out too much for the reader. In *Joe Golem*, as in *Baltimore*, the illustrations are meant to provide an extra layer of mood. I don't want to show the reader exactly what's going on in any particular scene. I want to the text and the reader's imagination to do that."

Are further exploits of Molly and Joe Golem in the works? "We'd originally envisioned it as a trilogy and certainly hope to continue," Golden said. "Whether or not we are able to do that is in the hands of the publisher and in readers...so spread the word!"

Any chance that those future plans might involve comics as well? "No plans for comics at the moment," Golden said, "though we said the same thing when we did *Baltimore*, originally. Ask us again in a year or two. If we ever did do them, however, I'm certain they would contain new stories, not an adaptation."

Will they ever back up and tell more fully the story of that cataclysm and how it affected the people of the time? "Right now we're focused entirely on this one story—the story of Joe Golem—but there's no question that this is a world and a mythology that's ripe for expansion," Golden said. "Just in the pages of *Joe Golem & the Drowning City*, we touch on centuries' worth of stories. I certainly hope that we'll have the opportunity to follow the various threads both backward and forward from this one piece of the tapestry."

Joe Golem & the Drowning City, an illustrated novel from St. Martin's Press, is available now. A deluxe 1000-copy limited edition hardcover is slated for September release from Dark Horse.

by Cliff Biggers

The following comics and comics-related books are tentatively slated for release on the dates given, based on the latest information provided by the publishers at press-time. If no date is listed, the books are scheduled for release sometime in the month of May. Diamond Comic Distributors' code numbers are included for ease of ordering.

- **2000 AD #1781** 5/2 Rebellion MAR121164 \$5.25
- **2000 AD #1782** 5/9 Rebellion MAR121165 \$5.25
- **2000 AD #1783** 5/16 Rebellion MAR121166 \$5.25
- **2000 AD #1784** 5/23 Rebellion MAR121167 \$5.25
- **2000 AD #1785** Rebellion MAR121168 \$5.25
- **30 DAYS OF NIGHT ONGOING #7** 5/9 IDW MAR120384 \$3.99
- **30 DAYS OF NIGHT: 10 BLOODY YEARS TREASURY ED** 5/16 IDW MAR120386 \$9.99
- **68 SCARS #2 (OF 4)** 5/16 Image MAR120468 \$3.99
- **6TH PLANET GN** Ape MAR120739 \$6.99
- **ABE SAPIEN TP VOL 2: DEVIL DOES NOT JEST** 5/9 Dark Horse JAN120075 \$17.99
- **ABSOLUTE BATMAN DARK VICTORY HC** 5/23 DC OCT110244 \$99.99
Deluxe upscale-format oversized edition of Batman: Dark Victory #s 0-13 by Jeph Loeb & Tim Sale
- **ACOLYTE CHRONICLES #1** 5/23 Azure MAR120819 \$3.99
- **ACTION COMICS #9** 5/2 DC MAR120176 \$3.99
Grant Morrison & Gene Ha spotlight characters from parallel Earths, including President Superman and Superdome
- **ACTIVITY #6** 5/9 Image MAR120470 \$3.50
- **ADVENTURE TIME #4** Boom MAR120884 \$3.99
- **ADVENTURES OF DOG MENDONCA, PIZZABOY TP** 5/23 Dark Horse JAN120086 \$12.99
- **AGE OF APOCALYPSE #3** 5/2 Marvel MAR120626 \$2.99
- **AGENT MARC SAUNDERS #2** Ardden MAR120816 \$3.99
- **AI ORE GN VOL 5** 5/2 Viz FEB121184 \$9.99
- **AIRBOY: DEADDEYE #2 (OF 5)** Antarctic MAR120732 \$3.99
- **AKA GN** Skatoon APR121220 \$19.99
- **ALABASTER WOLVES #2 (OF 5)** 5/9 Dark Horse MAR120048 \$3.50
- **ALL STAR WESTERN #9** 5/23 DC MAR120227 \$3.99
Night of the Owls tie-in
- **ALPHA FLIGHT BY GREG PAK AND FRED VAN LENTE TP VOL 1** 5/16 Marvel MAR120671 \$16.99
- **ALTER EGO #109** 5/9 TwoMorrows MAR121326 \$8.95
Spotlighting Golden Age Justice Society of America
- **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #685** 5/2 Marvel MAR120571 \$3.99
Ends of the Earth part 4
- **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #686** 5/23 Marvel MAR120573 \$3.99
Ends of the Earth part 5
- **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #39** 5/30 Marvel MAR120569 \$3.99
Spider-Man is stuck in a world where Peter Parker never existed
- **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN YOUNG READERS TP VOL 1: BEHIND MASK** 5/2 Marvel FEB120672 \$6.99
- **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: ENDS OF EARTH #1** 5/16 Marvel MAR120568 \$3.99
Spider-Man isn't the only hero fighting free the globe from Doctor Octopus's treacherous tentacles in this extra-sized story
- **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: PARALLEL LIVES #1** 5/9 Marvel MAR120577 \$4.99
- **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: SECRET ORIGINS TP** 5/2 Marvel FEB120675 \$14.99
- **AME COMI HAWKGIRL V.2 PVC FIGURE** 5/30 DC Direct FEB120308 \$70.00

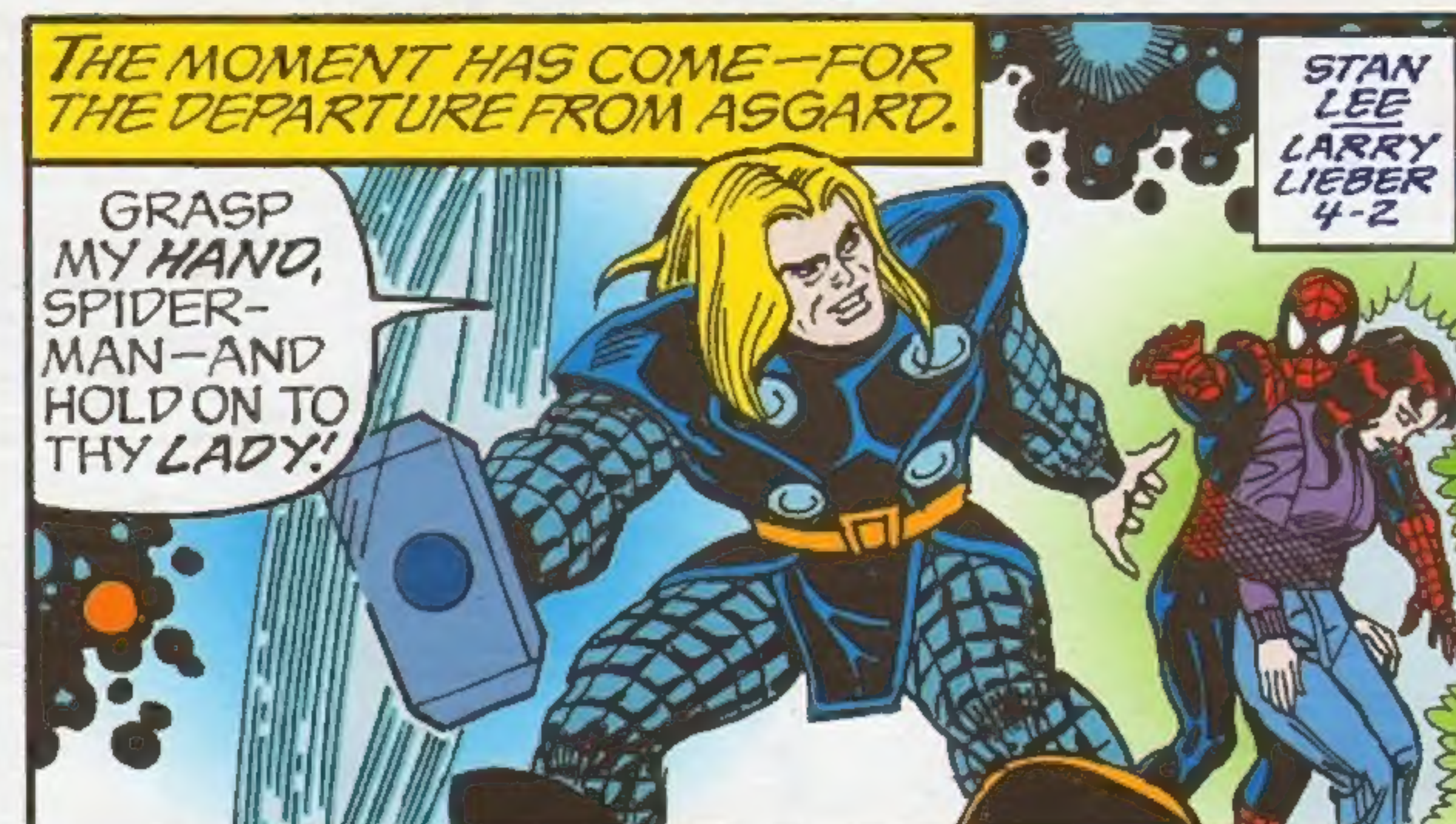
- **AMERICA'S GOT POWERS #3 (OF 6)** 5/30 Image MAR120471 \$2.99
- **AMERICAN VAMPIRE #27** 5/30 Vertigo/DC MAR120272 \$2.99
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Collects American Vampire #s 6-11
- **ANGEL & FAITH #10** 5/30 Dark Horse MAR120043 \$2.99
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SPIDER-MAN



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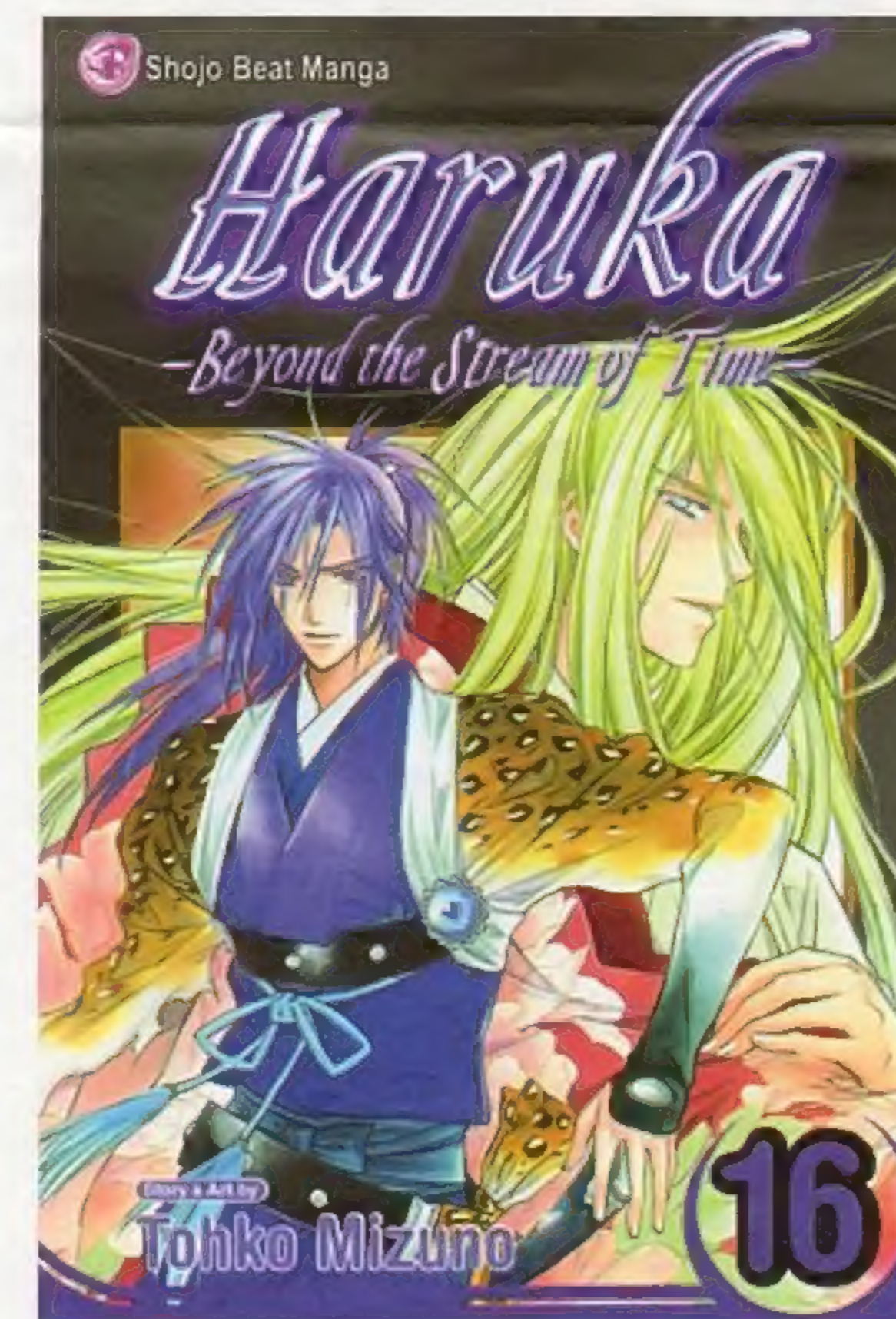


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- **LEGION LOST TP** 5/30 DC FEB120261 \$29.99
Collects the 12-issue Abnett/Lanning series

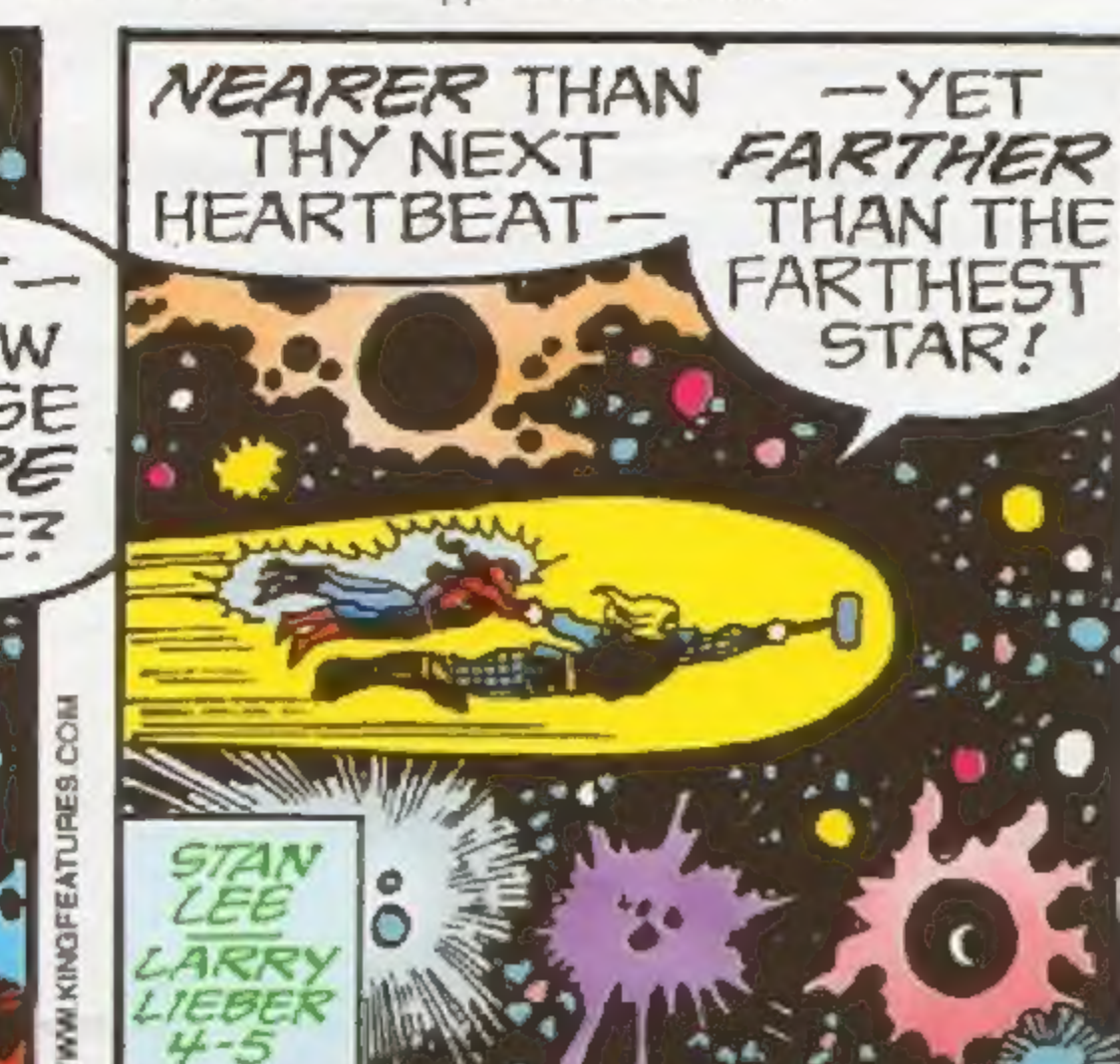


- **LEGION OF SUPER HEROES #9** 5/16 DC MAR120232 \$2.99
Brainiac and Dream Girl have been abducted by the Dominators... but why is the Legion refusing to rescue them?
- **LEGION OF SUPER HEROES ARCHIVES HC VOL 13** 5/9 DC AUG110255 \$59.99
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- **LOBSTER JOHNSON: THE BURNING HAND #5 (OF 5)** 5/9 Dark Horse MAR120041 \$3.50
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- **LOGAN'S RUN: AFTERMATH #5** Bluewater MAR120826 \$3.99
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- **LONE RANGER #5** Dynamite MAR120987 \$3.99
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- **LORD OF THE JUNGLE ANNUAL #1** Dynamite MAR120967 \$4.99
Tarzan confronts a Yankuu mogul who hopes to bring the ape-man to New York City for a battle to the death
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- **LOSERVILLE GN VOL 1** Amaze Ink MAR120713 \$12.95
- **LOST GIRL GN** Arcana MAR120743 \$14.95
- **LOU GN VOL 2 SUMMERTIME BLUES** 5/16 Lerner MAR121115 \$8.95
- **LOVELY HORRIBLE STUFF HC** 5/30 Top Shelf MAR121193 \$14.95
- **LOXLEYS AND THE WAR OF 1812 GN** Renegade Arts APR121209 \$19.99
- **LUCAS GN** Arcana MAR120744 \$14.95
- **LUKE MCBAIN TP** 12-Gauge MAR121213 \$14.99
- **M3 #1** Hound MAR121090 \$5.00
- **MAD ARCHIVES HC VOL 3** 5/23 DC SEP110209 \$59.99
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- **MADAGASCAR 3 PREQUEL DIGEST GN: LONG LIVE THE KING** Ape MAR120734 \$6.99
- **MAGIC THE GATHERING: SPELL THIEF #1** 5/30 IDW MAR120324 \$4.99
- **MAGNETO: NOT A HERO TP** 5/9 Marvel MAR120675 \$14.99
- **MAN OF GOD #1 (OF 6)** 5/2 Pinwheel MAR121160 \$3.50
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- **MARVEL UNIVERSE SPIDER-MAN: AMAZING FANTASY DIGEST TP** 5/23 Marvel MAR120669 \$9.99

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- **MASTERING COMICS SC** 5/9 First Second MAR121077 \$34.99
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Matt Kindt presents a bold new espionage series
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Amanda Waller & the Suicide Squad want Mitch Shelley's seemingly indestructible body... no matter what!
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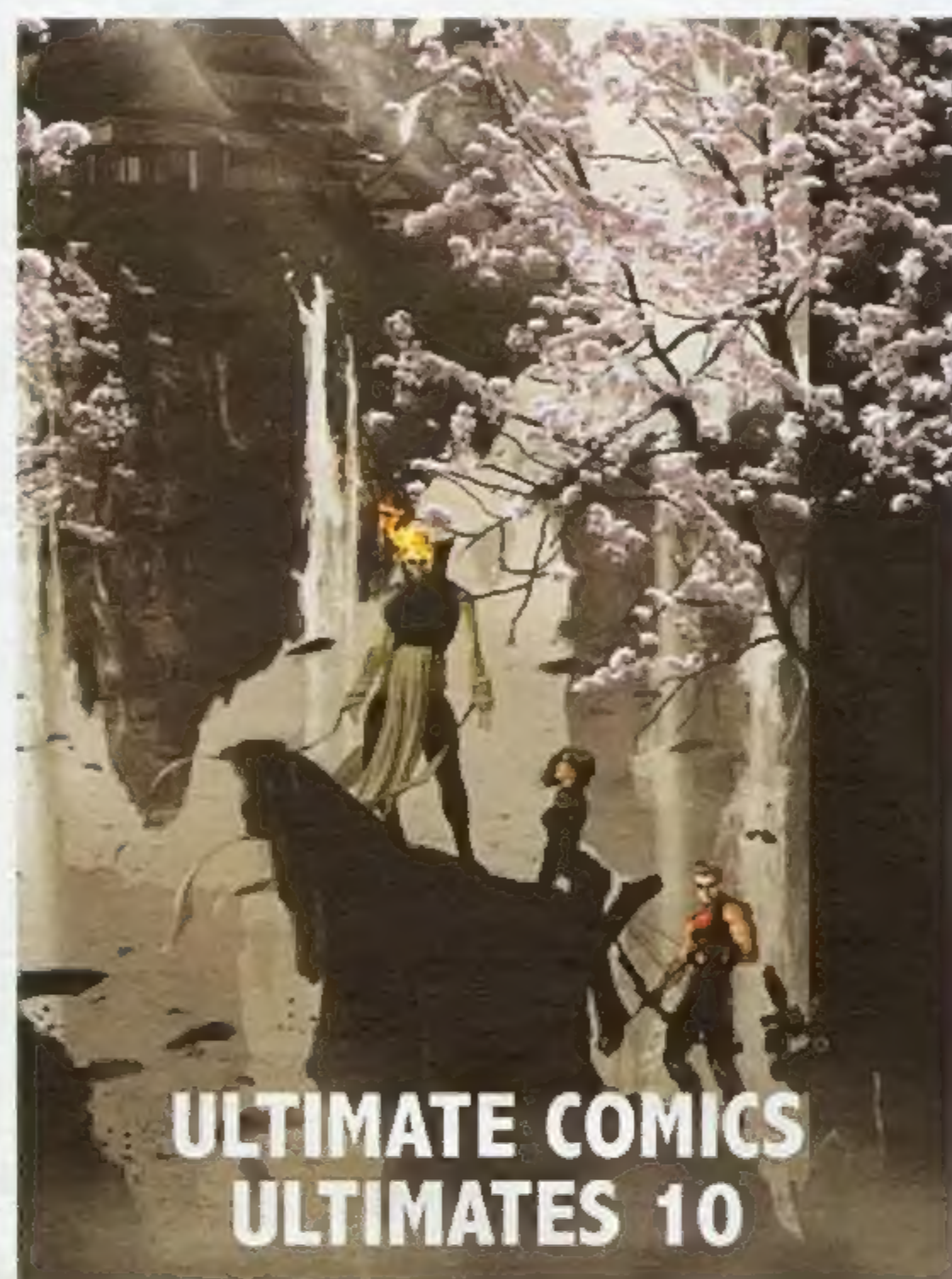
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Mark Millar & Dave Gibbons follow the world's greatest secret agent as he trains his street-punk nephew to be the next James Bond
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- **SPANDEX HC** Titan MAR121189 \$19.95
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- **SPAWN 20TH ANNIVERSARY POSTER #2 (OF 4)** 5/9
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David Liss & Colton Worley present an updated 21st century version of the classic pulp crimefighter
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JAN120731 \$24.99
Cullen Bunn & Neil Edwards present a new look at Spidey's origin
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The graduation celebration for the first class of Imperial cadets is disrupted by a sudden terrorist strike! But the real targets of the attack are the new Emperor and his second in command, Darth Vader. Only one man—a disabled, brilliant cadet who, up until the moment of the attack, was experiencing the best moment of his life—stands ready to fight alongside Vader for the life of his Emperor
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Collects Starman #s 0-16
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MAR120876 \$3.99



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New writer Peter Milligan pits Apollo and Midnight against Red Lantern Skallox
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- **SUMOMOMO MOMOMO TP VOL 12** 5/9 Yen MAR121277 \$11.99
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22" x 16" classic Sunday-Funnies-style collections of Gasoline Alley, Alley Oop, Bronc Peeler, Krazy Kat, Tarzan, Connie by Frank Godwin, Buck Rogers, and others
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Continues crossover with Teen Titans and Legion Lost
- **SUPERCROOKS #3 (OF 4)** 5/16 Marvel MAR120635 \$2.99
- **SUPERGIRL #9** 5/16 DC MAR120183 \$2.99
- **SUPERMAN #9** 5/23 DC MAR120180 \$2.99
Superman faces new supervillain Masochist
- **SUPERMAN FAMILY ADVENTURES #1** 5/30 DC MAR120265 \$2.99
The Tiny Titans team of Franco & Art Baltazar present tales of Superman and friends
- **SUPERMAN PATINA MINI STATUE** 5/9 DC Direct FEB120309 \$95.00
- **SUPERMAN: GROUNDED TP VOL 1** 5/9 DC FEB120265 \$17.99
Collects Superman #s 700-706
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Erik Larsen picks up where Alan Moore's story from last issue left off
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Swamp Thing battles his way through the Bone Kingdom to take on Sethe and his servants
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- **TEEN TITANS #9 (THE CULLING)** 5/23 DC MAR120229 \$2.99
Crossover with Superboy & Legion Lost
- **TEEN TITANS ANNUAL #1 (THE CULLING)** 5/2 DC MAR120228 \$4.99
Crossover with Superboy & Legion Lost
- **TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES COLOR CLASSICS #1** 5/2 IDW MAR120372 \$3.99
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